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Title:
Speech opening Jam Factory exhibition, St Peters

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8.12.74.

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Mr. Blackall, Members of the Craft Authority, ladies and gentlemen :

Thank you for inviting me to open the Jam Factory's new exhibition.

Mr. Blackall has warned me in the imperative via the printed invitation to be succinct and informal - so I won't detain you for long.

I just want to say that the Jam Factory is already living up to its promise of providing one of the most stimulating working environments in Australia.

It has a real air of excitement that is attracting craftsmen and crafts-women individually and in groups around the State so that a kind of ingathering of creative talent is beginning to take shape.

I don't think it's a fanciful prediction to suggest that, before long, I think we'll have here a real community of talent of the sort which characterised the great medieval craft centres but which has rarely been seen since.

Glass blowers, potters, leather workers, weavers, carpenters, film-makers, all will be able to find a home - and I hope inspiration and a market - within its walls.

The Authority is wasting no time on establishing itself as a force both interstate and overseas.

Plans are in hand for exhibitions in Sydney and Melbourne and one major overseas capital. In addition Sam Herman - a glass blower whose work is both original and beautiful - and who is now permanently living here happily - is shortly to exhibit in Hamburg and London under Craft Authority auspices. In other words, with refreshing immodesty, we are now taking our design industry to the experts.

The Craft Authority and the Jam Factory have attracted more than its share of knockers. The pessimists being proved wrong with despatch and conviction.

This exhibition of first prints puts on display a quality range of wares, serves notice that the Authority is off and running and is a foretaste of other, exciting things to come. I have very much pleasure in now informally declaring it open.

Thank You.

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